



American Association of  
**HEALTH PLANS**®

**Karen Ignagni**  
President and Chief Executive Officer

September 26, 2001

The Honorable John Dingell  
Ranking Minority Member  
House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
2322 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell:

On behalf of the American Association of Health Plans (AAHP) and our 1,000 member plans, I am writing to commend you for introducing H.R. 2630, the "FamilyCare Act of 2001." We support the approach outlined by your legislation as Congress considers solutions for addressing the health care needs of the uninsured.

Your legislative proposal, as well as several others we support, has significant potential for reducing the number of Americans who are uninsured. As we explore possible solutions for achieving this goal, AAHP and our member plans believe it is important to consider a wide range of options—including improvements in existing government programs, outreach efforts to educate the uninsured about their coverage options, and tax provisions to make health coverage more affordable.

Efforts to address this national priority should consider opportunities for building upon the success of Medicaid and the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP)—as your legislation proposes—while at the same time recognizing that both the private sector and government programs have an important role to play in helping the uninsured. The "FamilyCare Act of 2001" offers a thoughtful approach to meeting this challenge.

We look forward to working with you to advance reforms that give more Americans access to a high quality, affordable, patient-centered health care system.

Sincerely,

Karen Ignagni

cc: The Honorable Billy Tauzin  
The Honorable Edward Kennedy  
The Honorable Olympia Snowe  
The Honorable Max Baucus  
The Honorable Charles Grassley